

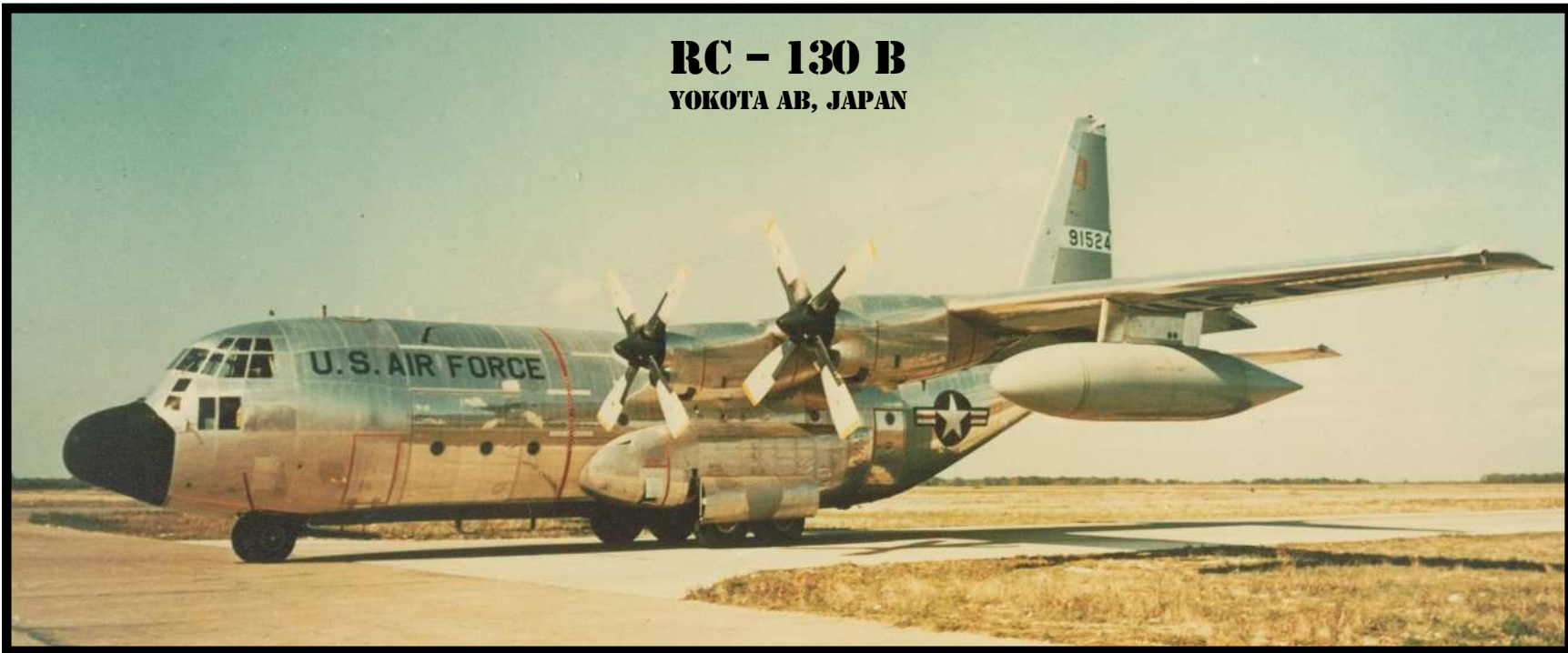
# RC - 130 B

OSAN AB, KOREA - 1971



The RC-130B aircraft was the main Top Secret Communications Intelligence (COMMINT) gathering aircraft during the Cold War against North Korea, China, the Soviet Union, and other Soviet block countries in the late 60's and early 70's. Typical missions from Osan AB, Korea and Yokota AB, Japan lasted 10 hours and provided not only airborne early warning capability for Korea and Japan, but also provided intelligence gathering capability against target countries. We were routinely targeted by hostile fighters to be intercepted and shot down.

## RC - 130 B YOKOTA AB, JAPAN



An essential part of our squadron heritage is the bat symbol. Originally, the 6988<sup>th</sup> Security Squadron flew RB-50s; the front-end flyers of these planes referred to our unit members as bats, due to the cave-like conditions of their working environment in the back of the aircraft. The name stuck and the symbol followed.

On our squadron patch, the bat in flight symbolizes the flying duties of the 6988<sup>th</sup>. Since the bat hunts and lives by homing in on signals, it also represents the squadron's primary mission of collecting electronic emissions, also referred to as Communications Intelligence (COMMINT).

Our squadron motto symbolizes the unit's 24-hour-a-day mission and its ability to respond quickly to mission tasks. The squadron fulfilled its mission at any time, "By day or by Night." The seven rays in the background of our patch are also significant - they symbolize the seven 6988<sup>th</sup> airmen killed in the unit's first mission, a sensitive reconnaissance operation against hostile forces in the Far East.

